

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 05375 080349Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

INT-08 DRC-01 /196 W

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R 080322Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5842

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EGEN, PFOR, MY, JA, SN, TH, ID, RP

SUBJECT: ASEAN-JAPAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON SYNTHETIC RUBBER

REF: TOKYO 15526; JAKARTA 14002

1. SUMMARY: WHILE RECOGNIZING CURRENT OIL SHORTAGE AS REASON
FOR CURTAILMENT OF ANY PRESENT EXPANSION IN PRODUCTION AND EXPORT
OF JAPANESE SYNTHETIC RUBBER, GOM GENERALLY PLEASED WITH RESULTS
OF MINISTERIAL MEETING. GOM FELT ASEAN PROVED USEFUL AS
NEGOTIATING
VEHICLE AND PLAN USE IT IN FUTURE. EMBASSY VIEWS
MEETING AS SPECIAL CASE AND NOT INDICATOR OF FUTURE SUCCESSFUL
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PAGE 02 KUALA 05375 080349Z

JOINT NEGOTIATIONS BY ASEAN.

2. DISCUSSIONS WITH MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING MEMBER OF GOM DELEGATION, REVEALED THAT MALAYSIAN INVOLVED IN PREPARATION FOR MEETING FELT THAT AFTER ARAB CURTAILMENT OF OIL PRODUCTION STATED PRUPOSE OF MEETING, I.E., CURBING JAPAN'S PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF SYNTHETIC RUBBER, HAD ALREADY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. HOWEVER, MEETING WAS HELD ANYWAY, PARTIALLY BECAUSE ENOUGH MOMENTUM BUILT UP SO THAT EASIER TO GO AHEAD THAN NOT. GOM ALSO INTERESTED IN TESTING EFFECTIVENESS OF ASEAN AS NEGOTIATING MECHANISM.

3. MALAYSIAN DELEGATION CAME AWAY FROM MEETING WITH GENERALLY GOOD FEELINGS ABOUT USEFULNESS OF ASEAN AND THERE SEEMS TO BE CONSENSUS IN GOM TO TRY AND USE ASEAN AS VEHICLE FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPAN AND EEC AS WELL AS OTHER COUNTRIES.

4. TECHNICAL MEETINGS ON SYNTHETIC RUBBER WHICH WILL BEGIN BEFORE MARCH 74 WILL BE USED BY ASEAN TO MONITOR JAPANESE SYNTHETIC RUBBER PRODUCTION INTENTIONS AND WILL BE CONDUIT FOR ASEAN PROTESTATIONS IF JAPANESE SYNTHETIC RUBBER PRODUCTION EXPANDS RAPIDLY.

5. SIDE BENEFIT OF MEETING, WHICH MALAYSIANS FELT WOULD ALONE HAVE JUSTIFIED MEETING, WAS RISE IN RUBBER MARKET PRICES FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF FAVORABLE RESULTS OF MEETING.

6. MALAYSIANS ALSO NOTICED THAT JAPANESE ACCORDED INDONESIAN FONMIN MALIK GREAT DEAL OF HONOR AND SPECIAL ATTENTION. MALAYSIANS BELIEVE JAPANESE GAVE MALIK ROYAL TREATMENT BECAUSE OF JAPANESE INTEREST IN INDONESIAN OIL RATHER THAN BECAUSE OF HIS POSITION AS ASEAN SPOKESMAN.

7. COMMENT: THOUGH MEETING VIEWED AS SUCCESS AND TECHNICAL MEETINGS WILL PROBABLY SERVE ASEAN PURPOSE, EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE MEETING IS INDICATOR OF FREQUENT AND CONTINUED USE OF ASEAN AS NEGOTIATING VEHICLE. SUCCESS THIS TIME WAS ASSURED BEFORE MEETING BEGAN; THORNIER PROBLEMS WITH POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AMONG ASEAN COUNTRIES WILL PROBABLY BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO HANDLE WITHIN ASEAN NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK.

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